

May 26, 2011

To: Supervisorial District Boundary Review Committee
County of Los Angeles

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REDISTRICTING PLANS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At the May 18, 2011 meeting of the Boundary Review Committee (BRC), County staff was asked to prepare a report on the potential workload and timeline impacts of a prospective extension of the deadline for the public to submit redistricting plans for BRC consideration. The current deadline is June 2, 2011, and there was discussion of extending the deadline for up to two weeks.

As you know, in order to meet the statutory deadline relating to local boundary review committees, your Committee must both approve and then submit to the Board of Supervisors a recommended Supervisorial Boundary Redistricting Plan before August 1, 2011. By statute, the Board is required to hold at least two public hearings to consider and adopt a new Boundary Ordinance. This will require two separate 15-day publication periods prior to each hearing. In addition, the new Boundary Ordinance must be effective prior to November 1st. The current timeline was designed to provide the Board with sufficient time to consider your Committee's recommendation and receive public input, and to hold additional hearings, if needed.

Therefore, your Committee's recommendation needs to be prepared and submitted as soon as possible after the July 13, 2011 BRC meeting. The current schedule calls for the BRC to meet on a weekly basis in June 2011, and staff will be recommending adding an additional BRC meeting for July 6, 2011, with the final meeting on July 13th, as noted.

Currently, six plans have been submitted by members of the public, all but one of which will receive full analysis and be scheduled for consideration at a BRC meeting (the 16-district plan will not be analyzed). By the time of the June 1 BRC meeting, this figure may well have increased substantially. Experience from the redistricting process from 2001 suggests that discussion of a single plan may comprise an entire BRC meeting. Accordingly, we are very concerned that insufficient time will be available for the BRC to provide adequate consideration of all submitted plans if the deadline is extended, even if the BRC adds several additional meetings in June 2011. Achieving a quorum for all meetings could be an issue in this event as well. While our major concern is allowing your Committee adequate time to review and consider plans, we should also note that the added workload related to additional plans and additional meetings will likely result in staff overtime and other costs, which would result in undermined additional, unbudgeted expense. Providing insufficient time for analytical review and reporting will also increase the potential for errors in this very data-intensive effort.

We believe a more prudent and workable solution is as follows:

- Retain the current June 2, 2011 deadline for submission of redistricting plans from the public (keeping in mind this deadline does not apply to BRC members).
- Stress to the public that they may continue to submit comments and recommendations to the BRC as to what adjustments should be made to the districts leading up to a BRC-recommended plan and then before the Board of Supervisors.
- Based upon BRC requests, staff will do their best to provide analytical reports on additional public comments and recommendations for consideration at BRC meetings as quickly as possible.

Should your Committee wish to leave open the possibility of accepting additional plans for some brief period after the June 2nd deadline, we strongly recommend that a caveat be included emphasizing that, depending on workload, it is unlikely plans submitted after the June 2nd deadline will receive the same level of analysis and consideration as those submitted on time, and may in fact not be considered at all if time does not permit.

We will provide an update on the status of submitted plans and be available to discuss these issues in greater detail at the June 1, 2011 meeting.